



# NEWS Release

Montana State Parks • 1420 E. 6th Avenue • Helena, MT 59620

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 15, 2015

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## **Decision Notice Issued for AMENDED Eden Bridge Host Pad Improvement Project At Smith River State Park**

(Helena, MT) – Montana State Parks ([stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)) announced today that a decision notice has been issued for an amended host pad improvement project at Eden Bridge in Smith River State Park near Ulm, MT. The decision is to move forward with the improvements to the existing host site area as amended, including the addition of two host pads with associated utilities. By notification of this Decision Notice the Environmental Assessment (EA) is hereby made the Final EA.

In 2014, Montana State Parks proposed to improve the host site area at Eden Bridge located in Smith River State Park by constructing two gravel pads for recreational vehicle parking, constructing gravel picnic areas adjacent to each gravel pad; installation of two shared underground water cisterns; two underground septic holding tanks; construction of one septic drain field; relocating the existing phone and electricity pedestal; relocation the maintenance storage shed and the entrance road to a safer location approximately 100' west of the current entrance.

Since the approval of these improvements in November 2014, Montana State Parks has reconsidered the installation of the potable water cisterns and believe a more suitable option is the drilling of a well. Because a well and its associated well pump and water lines were not considered in the original environmental analysis, an amended EA was required.

In peak floating season, Eden Bridge experiences a high volume of user traffic each day. The presence of a camp host improves site security for up to 60 vehicles, gives support to Park Rangers, helps with site maintenance, and provides service and assistance for floaters exiting the river. The improvements to the host pad sites will enhance Montana State Parks' ability to attract and maintain quality volunteer hosts.

It was determined that the proposed action would have no significant effects on the human or physical environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

A public comment process for the proposed project was open from March 17, 2015 through April 7, 2015. Montana State Parks received one public comment in opposition to the plan. No other comments were received.

To view the Decision Notice and Environmental Assessment (EA) visit:

[http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn\\_0042.html](http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0042.html)

Or go to [stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov) and click on 'public notices/submit comments'.

This decision notice action is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Directors Office in writing and postmarked within 30 days (by May 15, 2015) of this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, how the appellant has previously commented to the Department or participated in the decision-making process, and how FWP might address the concerns of the appeal.

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